



## **H.R. 3495 – Kids in Disasters Well-being, Safety, and Health Act of 2007**

### **FLOOR SITUATION**

H.R. 3495 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Rep. Corrine Brown (D-FL) on September 7, 2007. The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee approved the bill, as amended, on October 31, 2007.

H.R. 3495 is expected to be considered on the floor on November 6, 2007.

### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 3495 establishes the National Commission on Children and Disasters to assess the needs of children in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all hazards. The Commission is to report to Congress and the President regarding its findings, conclusions, and recommendations. The specific focus areas include: 1) physical and mental health, 2) child care, 3) child welfare; 4) education; 5) housing; 6) transportation; 7) entitlement and grant programs; 8) juvenile justice; 9) evacuation; and 10) emergency management. The Commission must submit its final report within 2 years.

The bill authorizes \$2 million for each fiscal year 2008 and 2009, and permits the Commission to accept donations. The Commission must terminate 6 months after filing its final report.

### **BACKGROUND**

Natural disasters can cause significant hardships for families and, in particular, children. The ongoing recovery efforts in the Gulf region in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita highlight the struggles that people face. A number of private organizations and individuals volunteered to assist federal, State, and local recovery efforts.

### **COST**

The Congressional Budget Office has not scored this legislation.

### **STAFF CONTACT**

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